

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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Room Reservations for Convention

Members of the Association who have not yet made application for room reservations for the annual convention to be held at Chicago the week of January 21 will find it advantageous to send in their applications promptly. The Stevens Hotel will be headquarters for the National Canners Association and the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association, and all available rooms in that hotel will be for assignment to members of those two associations. The National Food Brokers Association will have assignment of all rooms available in the Palmer House, where the Brokers Association headquarters will be.

The three associations have arranged for additional accommodations at the Blackstone, Congress, Atlantic, Harrison, and Morrison hotels.

Conference on Labor Legislation Held

Official representatives of the governors of 39 States, Alaska, and Puerto Rico attended the Sixth National Conference on Labor Legislation in Washington on November 13, 14, and 15. Secretary of Labor Perkins presided at the Conference, which discussed the experience of the States and the Federal Government with the Fair Labor Standards Act. State minimum wage and child labor laws, problems of training and retraining skilled labor, prevention of industrial accidents and diseases, and standards of workmen's compensation were also discussed at the meetings.

Committee reports were received citing the "importance of vigorously pushing State wage and hour laws" and recommending that cooperative agreements be entered into for making inspections and investigations under the Federal wage and hour law. The Committee on Child Labor in its report urged "that each State pass laws eliminating child labor in all industrialized or commercialized forms of agriculture."

Order on Minors as Motor-Vehicle Drivers

The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has issued a notice that an order, declaring the occupations of motor-vehicle driver and helper are particularly hazardous for the employment of minors between 16 and 18 years of age, will become effective January 1, 1940, unless objections are received before November 26 that disclose a just cause for revision of the order.

The definitions of the terms motor-vehicle, driver, and helper were published in the INFORMATION LETTER of October 14. The order is issued under authority of the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

British Lift Import Restrictions on Certain Foods

Citrus fruit juices; foreign-taken prawns, shrimps, mussels, cockles, and winkles; meat extracts and essences; and grape juice and must, are included in an open general import license authorization by the United Kingdom Board of Trade announced November 14, and may be imported without license until further notice, according to a cablegram from the American Embassy at London.

At the same time, the following products were prohibited temporarily from importation: canned vegetables, other than dried vegetables, tomatoes, and beans (except runner); sweetened pickles, other than chutney; cider and perry; and nuts, other than almonds, walnuts, chestnuts, Brazil, Barcelona, and hazel nuts.

Effective November 20, the importation without license of fresh apples and pears, pepper, and apricot and peach kernels is prohibited.

The other foodstuffs that may be imported without license include: red cabbage, gherkins, garlic, and horse-radish; yeast and block milk; and Barcelona, hazel, Brazil nuts, and chestnuts.

Food Rationing Plans of Belligerent Countries

The British Ministry of Food recently announced that the government considers it necessary to ration bacon and butter, but not before mid-December, according to the American agricultural attache at London. The ration per person per week will be 4 ounces of butter, and 4 ounces of bacon, including ham. These figures are around one-half of normal consumption. Consumers also are requested to register with dealers for sugar as a guide to regional requirements, but rationing will not be introduced unless consumers exceed the normal requirements of one pound per week.

At about the same time, the German government issued new food rationing regulations for Germany, to become effective November 20. These provide for a small increase in the meat ration, according to the American consulate general at Berlin, for a readjustment of the fat rations by raising the quantity of butter at the expense of other edible fats, and for a special one-time distribution of meat, butter, eggs, rice, beans, peas, and chocolate in December. These special rations are believed in part intended to compensate consumers for the seasonal shortage of fresh vegetables and in part to improve and diversify their war diet at Christmas time.

The normal meat ration is raised for four months, from November 20, by 125 grams (4.4 oz.) for each four-week period. The present ration being 2,000 grams (70.5 oz. or 4 lbs., 6.5 oz.) for four weeks, this month's ration is increased by 6.2 per cent. Besides, an additional 125 grams are allowed for December.

Special Report on Stocks of Canned Tomatoes

A special report on stocks of canned tomatoes, prepared by the Association's Division of Statistics, places the stocks on November 1, excluding California, at 11,690,000 actual cases.

This report is not one of the series of reports on stocks of canned tomatoes issued regularly by the Division of Statistics. It was obtained before the final pack figures were available, and the basis for estimating the stocks of those whose reports were not received is not so reliable as it will be after all of the pack figures are known.

Stocks figures for November 1, 1938, are not available, but for December 1, 1938, stocks were only slightly smaller than the November 1, 1939, figures. The total on December 1, 1938, excluding California, was 11,204,000 cases.

The following table shows, in round figures, the stocks of canned tomatoes on November 1, 1939, by regions, excluding California:

	Cases
Northeast.....	1,000,000
Middle Atlantic.....	4,500,000
Midwest.....	4,150,000
Tennessee and Kentucky.....	150,000
Ozark territory.....	1,000,000
Western.....	750,000
Southern.....	140,000
Total (excluding California).....	11,690,000

France Suspends Duties on Dried Beans

The French government has temporarily suspended the import duties and license taxes on dried beans, lentils, and peas, according to the American Embassy at Paris.

Palestine Citrus Industry Has Export Difficulties

Present indications are that the Palestine citrus fruit crop for export for the 1939-40 season will amount to about 15,000,000 cases, but local growers doubt if even half this total can be marketed, according to the American consul at Jerusalem. Since the war, freight costs for shipments to the United Kingdom, the most important outlet for Palestine fruit, have risen sharply and it has become increasingly difficult to obtain cargo space. Spanish fruit is likely to increase competition for the British market.

Analysis of Fruit Juice Market in Netherlands

An analysis of the fruit juice market in The Netherlands, prepared the middle of October by the office of the American commercial attache at The Hague, was made public this week by the Department of Commerce. Although the war has no doubt caused considerable variation from this normal situation as presented in the attache's analysis, portions of the report are presented for the information of canners.

"The Netherlands offers a very good market for various kinds of fruit juices and fruit nectars. The juices are used in different forms, either concentrated or diluted, in homes, cafes, and lunch-rooms, and at sport fields, camping grounds, etc. In addition to fruit juices and nectars in bottles and cans, there is considerable consumption of fresh fruit juices. The consumption of fruit juices, under the promotion of anti-alcoholic and vegetarian movements, has increased con-

siderably over the last several years. So far as sweetened juices are concerned, however, high taxation restricts demand.

"Although there are no available production statistics covering fruit juices and fruit nectars, it is believed that by far the greatest part of the local consumption is by local manufacturers. . . . The local earning power is comparatively low, and this is emphasized in the smaller cities and towns, so that competition, especially with juices from fruits that are grown locally, is rather difficult for foreign manufacturers. . . . Large quantities of fruit, such as strawberries and various other berries, apples, and grapes, are grown locally, but the remainder, especially oranges, lemons, and grapefruit, are imported.

"Exports of fruit juices from The Netherlands are important, and during the last few years, have even exceeded imports both from the point of view of value and quantity. . .

"During 1938, 738,191 kilos of unsweetened fruit juices valued at 141,276 guilders were imported, compared with 754,970 kilos valued at 140,278 guilders in 1937. Judged by value, the United States was the most important supplier, with 124,276 kilos valued at 44,278 guilders. . . .

"Imports of sweetened fruit juices, including lemonades, totaled 45,361 kilos valued at 7,746 guilders in 1938, and 61,985 kilos valued at 10,751 guilders in 1937. The principal suppliers were Great Britain, with 22,007 kilos valued at 3,390 guilders; Germany, with 17,442 kilos valued at 1,806 guilders; and the United States, with 4,029 kilos valued at 1,478 guilders."

Canned Pineapple Exports from British Malaya

Exports of canned pineapples from British Malayan ports during the week ending September 2, 1939, amounted to 24,038 cases, of which 53 per cent were shipped to the United Kingdom. Total exports for the period January 1 to September 2, 1939, amounted to 1,962,414 cases, or an average of 56,069 cases per week. Total exports for the corresponding period of 1938 were 1,775,880 cases, or an average of 50,739 cases per week.

Wichita County, Texas, Added to Stamp Plan List

Wichita county, Texas, including the city of Wichita Falls, was added this week to the areas in which surplus foods are being distributed by the food stamp plan. According to the 1930 census, the county has a population of 74,416, and it is estimated that there are about 3,750 relief cases, representing about 12,750 individuals.

Seattle Stamp Program Area Extended to County

The food order stamp plan program that has been in effect since July 3 in the city of Seattle, now has been put into effect in the whole area of King County.

Pamphlet on Association's Services Distributed

A pamphlet describing concisely the organization and activities of the National Canners Association has been printed and distributed to the entire canning industry. The leaflet is titled "Your National Association at Work." Additional copies can be secured upon request.

The pamphlet is designed to remind members of the services of the Association, and to give non-members an idea of what services they can gain by affiliation with the Association.

Canners Admitted to Membership

The following canners have been admitted to membership since October 7, 1939:

Bankston-Edwards Canning Co., Zebulon, Ga.
Gilbert Foods Corporation, Webster, N. Y.
John S. Isaacs, Ellendale, Delaware.
Machiasport Canning Co., Machiasport, Maine.
Red Mountain Packers, Inc., Seldovia, Alaska.
Southwest Food Products Co., Houston, Texas.
Sunset Packing Co., Inc., West Pembroke, Maine.

Stocks and Shipments of Canned Corn

Total stocks of canned corn, excluding corn on the cob, on November 1, 1939, amounted to 15,597,333 actual cases, compared with 19,953,472 cases on November 1, 1938, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. Shipments during October, 1939, amounted to 2,044,636 cases, compared with 1,460,829 cases shipped during October, 1938.

Shipments during the three months, August 1 to November 1, 1939, amounted to 7,047,396 cases, and were 5,702,778 cases during the same months in the previous year.

November 1 stocks of corn on the cob totaled 311,077 cases, with Eastern States holding 36,759 cases, and Western States 274,318 cases.

In the following table are shown figures on total supply of canned corn in canners' hands on November 1, 1939. Figures on unsold stocks are not available for all canners. The figures are based on reports from 80 per cent of the canners packing sweet corn in 1939, together with estimates for the 20 per cent not reported.

	Eastern States	Western States
Cream Style:		
Evergreen.....	806,625	1,252,589
Narrow Grain.....	362,047	427,393
Country Gentleman.....	162,749	2,177,187
Crosby.....	146,158	49,463
Bantam Golden.....	2,153,804	3,090,448
Whole Kernel:		
Bantam Golden.....	941,364	3,206,645
White.....	368,547	392,314
Total.....	5,001,294	10,596,039

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported to the Agricultural Marketing Service by Common Carriers

VEGETABLES	Week ending—			Season total to—		
	Nov. 11, 1938	Nov. 4, 1939	Nov. 11, 1939	Nov. 11, 1938	Nov. 11, 1939	Nov. 11, 1939
Beans, snap and lima.....	196	88	101	8,620	7,127	
Tomatoes.....	296	191	242	34,826	27,317	
Green peas.....	74	100	69	6,399	7,135	
Spinach.....	58	14	9	6,959	6,493	
Others:						
Domestic, competing directly.....	1,783	1,924	1,689	107,108	108,028	
Imports, competing indirectly.....	82	99	70	802	815	
Fruits						
Citrus, domestic.....	2,671	2,362	2,537	14,179	12,047	
Imports.....	0	0	0	77	31	
Others, domestic.....	2,546	1,217	1,778	40,850	44,824	

Stocks and Shipments of Pitted Red Cherries

Shipments of pitted red cherries from July 1 to November 1, 1939, included 1,493,016 cases of No. 2's and 744,011 cases of No. 10's, as compared with 431,357 cases of No. 2's and

443,433 cases of No. 10's shipped during the corresponding period of 1938, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics.

Stocks on November 1, 1939, were 525,672 No. 2's and 367,283 No. 10's. Stocks on November 1, 1938, were 445,703 No. 2's and 539,269 No. 10's.

In the following table are shown November 1 stocks of pitted red cherries by can sizes and regions, with shipments for the four months, July-November:

	24/2 Cases	6/10 Cases	Misc. Cases	Total Cases
New York and Pennsylvania:				
Stocks: Sold not shipped.....	88,414	52,111	12,133	152,658
Stocks: Unsold.....	23,199	9,877	3,603	36,679
Stocks: Total.....	111,613	61,988	15,736	189,337
Shipments for October.....	55,648	16,190	9,252	81,090
Mich., Wisc., and Ohio:				
Stocks: Sold not shipped.....	153,705	60,643	5,680	220,027
Stocks: Unsold.....	237,795	116,804	2,996	357,685
Stocks: Total.....	391,500	177,537	8,685	577,722
Shipments for October.....	88,039	41,134	2,475	131,648
Western States:				
Stocks: Sold not shipped.....	11,878	61,300	7,122	80,300
Stocks: Unsold.....	10,681	66,458	1,587	78,726
Stocks: Total.....	22,559	127,758	8,709	159,026
Shipments for October.....	3,155	1,233	3,909	8,357
Total United States:				
Stocks: Sold not shipped.....	253,997	174,054	24,944	452,995
Stocks: Unsold.....	271,675	193,229	8,186	473,090
Stocks: Total.....	525,672	367,283	33,130	926,085
Shipments for October.....	146,842	58,557	13,696	221,095

Fruits and Vegetables in Cold Storage

Total stocks of all frozen fruits reported in cold storage on November 1 by the Agricultural Marketing Service were 141,970,000 pounds, a decrease during October of 117,000 pounds. Reports indicated that 116,124,000 pounds were in large containers of 30 pounds or more capacity, and that 25,846,000 pounds were in small containers of less than 30 pounds capacity.

During October, frozen vegetable stocks were decreased by 1,088,000 pounds. A year earlier for the same month there was a slight increase. November 1 holdings were 5,781,000 pounds heavier than a year earlier.

The following tables show stocks of frozen fruits and vegetables in cold storage on November 1, 1939, compared with previous periods:

	Nov. 1, 1938	Oct. 1, 1939	Nov. 1, 1939
FROZEN FRUITS	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Blackberries.....	5,011	8,592	7,596
Blueberries.....	5,662	2,866	3,908
Cherries.....	23,797	28,317	25,741
Logan and similar berries.....	3,632	3,520	2,936
Raspberries.....	12,092	10,165	9,555
Strawberries.....	39,832	44,030	42,426
Other fruits.....	53,822	17,452	22,368
Classification not reported.....		36,245	27,380
Total.....	143,848	142,087	141,970
FROZEN VEGETABLES			
Asparagus.....	4,038	6,305	6,010
Beans, lima.....	14,388	18,366	17,236
Beans, snap.....	5,693	7,218	7,177
Broccoli, green.....	917	1,236	1,459
Corn, sweet.....	6,813	7,640	7,198
Peas, green.....	24,155	28,207	26,664
Spinach.....	2,694	2,586	4,085
Other vegetables.....	12,693	2,279	2,677
Classification not reported.....		4,423	4,066
Total.....	71,391	78,260	77,172

Stocks of Pickles in Tanks and Barrels

Total stocks of salt and dill pickles in tanks and barrels on October 1, 1939, are estimated by the Agricultural Marketing Service to have been 6,871,000 bushels, compared with 9,091,000 bushels in 1938, and an average of 6,839,000 bushels for the preceding 9-year (1929-37) period on the corresponding date.

Salt stocks on hand on October 1, 1939, are estimated at 6,315,000 bushels or about 92 per cent of the total of 6,871,000 bushels on hand on this date. Dill stocks consisted of 556,000 bushels, or 8 per cent of the total. This is about the same relationship as existed between salt and dill stocks in 1938.

Packers' receipts of cucumbers for pickles in 1939 are estimated to have totaled 3,863,000 bushels, compared with 6,107,000 bushels received in 1938, and an average for the preceding 9-year (1929-37) period of 5,277,000 bushels. Receipts in 1939 were the lowest since 1933.

Disappearance of salt and dill stocks from tanks and barrels (October 1 total stocks less carryover from the following September 30) has been apparently as follows for the past three seasons: 1936-37—4,837,000 bushels; 1937-38—5,185,000 bushels; 1938-39—5,713,000 bushels.

These disappearance figures do not include certain quantities of "bread and butter" pickles, "over-night dillies", etc., which are packed from the current year's production between the time of harvest and October 1. The October 1 stocks include only those quantities of salt and dill stocks actually stored in tanks and barrels on that date.

Production of Cucumbers for Pickles Estimated

The 1939 production of cucumbers for pickles is estimated at 3,863,000 bushels by the Agricultural Marketing Service. This preliminary estimated production is 37 per cent below the 6,107,000 bushels estimated for 1938 and 26 per cent less than the average production for the preceding 10-year (1928-37) period of 5,243,000 bushels.

The 1939 revised estimate of 62,220 acres planted to cucumbers for pickles represents a reduction of about 30 per cent from the 88,700 acres planted in 1938. Plantings for the 8-year (1930-37) period have averaged 90,990 acres annually.

The estimate of 57,170 acres of cucumbers harvested for pickles in 1939 represents a reduction of 31 per cent from the 1938 harvested acreage of 82,440 acres. The harvested acreage for the 10-year (1928-37) period has averaged 82,160 acres annually.

The difference between the acreage planted and the acreage harvested each season represents loss or abandonment of plantings on account of unfavorable conditions. The loss of 5,050 acres represents about 9 per cent of the 1939 plantings. In 1938, the loss of 6,260 acres represented the abandonment of 7 per cent of the acreage planted. The average annual loss of plantings for the 8-year (1930-37) period was 9 per cent.

Rice Exporters' Association Files Papers under Export Trade Act

The California Rice Exporters Association has filed papers under the Export Trade Act (Webb-Pomerene Law) with the Federal Trade Commission, for exporting rice and rice products.

The Export Trade Act grants exemption from the antitrust laws to an association entered into solely for the purpose of engaging in, and solely engaged in, export trade, provided that there be no restraint of trade within the United States, or restraint of the export trade of any domestic competitor, and with the further prohibition of any agreement, understanding, conspiracy, or act which shall enhance or depress prices or substantially lessen competition within the United States or otherwise restrain trade therein.

Earl May Writes of Canned Baby Food Business

In the November issue of *Printer's Ink Monthly* appears an article by Earl Chapin May, author of "The Canning Clan," on the canned baby food business. The article is titled "Baby of the Fine Foods Business," and tells of the pioneers and development of this industry.

Department Store Sales in October

Department store sales in October showed slightly less than the usual seasonal increase from the advanced September level, according to the Federal Reserve System. Sales in October were 6 per cent larger than in October, 1938, and the total for the first ten months of 1939 was 5 per cent above last year.

Association's Institutional Recipes Help Sales

Increased sales as a result of the distribution among his salesmen of the Association's institutional recipe book, "Canned Foods Recipes for Fifty", has been reported by a member. In a letter to the Home Economics Division the canner writes:

"We provided our salesmen with this publication and it practically doubled his sales of No. 10 cans in the districts in which he contacted customers."

The institutional recipe book was published last year to meet constant requests for quantity recipes for canned foods.

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